

By Walter Wright
Advertiser Staff Writer

"We intend to contest these charges vigorously at the trial and, if necessary, at the appellate level," Leane said.

"There's no doubt that in the heat of battle, in a three-month trial in which all the parties were working long hours and dealing with areas of the law that were new to all of us, mistakes were made on all sides," Levine said.

"I think allowances have to be

The charges, he said, "are the price that sometimes defense attorneys pay for vigorously defending an unpopular defendant."

Levine, who came to Hawaii in 1982, has supervised the growth of the federal public defender's office from a one-man operation to today's staff of six lawyers, a legal assistant, four secretaries and an investigator. He said that the office has represented 1,300 people in that time, and that the **Ronald** case is the only one in which such contempt charges have arisen.

He said the filing of the charges by

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